

Encounter Church
Sunday January 07, 2024

Sit and Serve

Luke 10:38-42- “As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.” But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

There are some that say verses 25-37 which tell the story of the “Good Samaritan” illustrates the 2nd Commandment of the “Great Commandment” which says “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Then our text illustrates the 1st Commandment of the “Great Commandment” which says to “love God with all your heart, soul and mind.”

John 12:1-8- “Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. A dinner was prepared in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus’ feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance. But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, “That perfume was worth a year’s wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.” Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples’ money, he often stole some for himself. Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

Some say this is the same account with different presentations from each writer. They say it’s possible that Luke isolates specific elements for its narrative purposes.

Others say that it’s conceivable that the accounts are separate episodes all together.

Whichever it is two specific things we discover from these passages:

- 1. Martha loved to serve!**
- 2. Mary loved being at Jesus feet!**

The skeletal similarities between the two accounts is tantalizing!

“Mary sat at Jesus feet listening to what He said!”

This is a description of a model disciple in Judaism! "Sitting at ones feet" is a classic description of a rabbinic disciple.

Acts 22:3- "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today."

In the Book of Luke, "sitting" (or falling) at Jesus feet symbolize's faith.

(Luke 7:38)- A sinful woman, many describe as a prostitute, was forgiven by Jesus and sat at Jesus feet.

(Luke 8:35)-A Gentile man who was demon possessed, delivered by Jesus and sitting at his feet.

(Luke 8:41)- Jarius falls at the feet of Jesus asking Jesus to come to his house and heal his dying daughter.

(Luke 17:16)- A Samaritan man healed of leprosy falls at the feet of Jesus to thank him.

(Luke 10:39)- "Mary sat at Jesus feet listening to what He said!"

Besides their faith all these had one thing in common. They were not permitted at the feet of a typical Jewish Rabbis.

I'm sorry, they had one more thing in common. ***Their desire to be at the feet of Jesus was greater than their desire to follow protocol.***

Their desire to be at the feet of Jesus was greater than their desire to follow the rules!

Their desire to be at the feet of Jesus was greater than their desire to do Christian things.

Their desire to be at the feet of Jesus was greater than their desire to do church things.

Their desire to be at the feet of Jesus was greater than their desire to please people.

["Mary sat at Jesus feet listening to what He said!"](#)

The Greek imperfect tense of "listening" means that Mary is **absorbing Jesus Word!**

SHE WOULDN'T AND COULDN'T BE DISTRACTED!

Martha couldn't get her attention because Jesus already had her attention!

Mary's desire produced a priority in her life! It was priority for Mary to be in the presence of Jesus listening to what he was saying!

It was supreme for her. It was superior for her!

Psalm 27:4- "The one thing I ask of the Lord— the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple."

The ONE THING I'm going to do is sit at Jesus feet and hear what He has to say!

Avoid setting the Lord's work as a priority over the Lord's presence!

Waiting quietly on God is better than bustling busy-ness!

1. Be Still

Psalm 46:10- "Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world."

(MSG)- "Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God, above politics, above everything."

2. Be Silent

James 1:19- "Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry."

1 Kings 19:12- "And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper."

3. Be Secure

Luke 10:42- "But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

CONCLUSION: Sit and hear what Jesus is saying to you today. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?